

In re Patent Application of:
YOUNGBLOOD
Serial No. 09/909,183
Filing Date: JULY 19, 2001

REMARKS

Prior to the present amendment, claims 1-43 were pending. With the cancellation of these claims and the addition of new claims 44-67, claims 44-67 are currently pending.

Newly presented replacement claims 44-67 are directed to the combination of a subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC) and an output current limit circuit as delineated in the invention of elected group I, to which original claims 1-6, 12-19, 25, 26 and 35-43 were directed. Applicant has canceled non-elected claims 7-11, 20-24 and 27-34 without prejudice to Applicant's right to file a separate divisional application to claims detailing the output current limit circuit, per se, which claims have not been examined, but have been withdrawn from consideration in the present application.

In replacing the rejected claims of elected group I with new claims 44-67, Applicant has endeavored to more particularly define the invention in a manner which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art cited in the outstanding Office Action. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that replacement claims 44-67 are not anticipated by the patent to Pasetti et al in the sense of 35 U.S.C. § 102, as set forth in the rejection in item 1 bridging pages 3-7 of the outstanding Office Action. Consequently, this rejection, particularly as applied to replacement claims 44-67, is respectfully traversed. Applicant urges reconsideration of the rejection and favorable consideration of replacement claims 44-67.

More particularly, replacement claims 44-67 include independent claims 44, 52 and 60, upon which claims 45-51, claims 53-59, and claims 61-67 respectively depend. Claim 44 more particularly defines the subject matter of the subscriber line interface circuit as a combination of a tip and ring amplifiers

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thereof together with respective tip amplifier and ring amplifier output current limit circuits that controllably limit the tip and ring amplifier output currents, respectively, as previously more generally defined in original claim 1.

Replacement independent claim 52 is similar to replacement independent claim 44, but further includes the direct current (DC) limit circuit as part of the combination of the subscriber line interface circuit, as previously more generally characterized in original claim 15.

Finally, replacement independent claim 60, upon which claims 61-67 depend, recites the methodology of limiting respective tip and ring amplifier output currents applied by tip and ring amplifiers of a subscriber line interface circuit to respective tip and ring portions of a subscriber loop. The method steps recited in these claims correspond to the functionality of the tip and ring amplifier output current limit circuits of claim 44, for example, as previously more generally characterized in original claim 35.

A salient feature of Applicant's invention as characterized in each of the replacement claims 44-67, which Applicant respectfully submits is not disclosed or suggested by the patent to Pasetti et al 5,596,637, is the fact that the present invention individually monitors the tip and ring output currents of the tip and ring amplifier, exclusively of the other amplifier and irrespective of the current flowing through the other amplifier. These operations are carried out by the respective source and sink comparators 28a and 29a for the tip amplifier shown schematically in Figure 3 and by way of the source and sink comparators 28b and 29b for the ring amplifier schematically shown in Figure 3. In contrast therewith, the current limiting circuitry of the architecture described in the patent to Pasetti et al employs

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combinations of the tip and ring amplifier currents to perform common current limiting functions for both of the tip and ring amplifiers. This combining of the tip and ring currents involves the use of a common sensor SCM which senses longitudinal or common mode currents on the line, the output of the common sensor being connected in common to respective comparator circuits 6' and 6'', that control switches 23/22 and 20/21 which connect current sources 12' and 13' to the respective tip and ring buffers 4' and 5', as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings of the Pasetti et al patent. Pasetti et al employ an additional DC control circuit 7', coupled to a sensor circuit SL to receive a signal proportional to the line transversal current. The output of the DC control circuit 7' controls the operation of a transistor 3', which provides battery supply to both the tip and ring buffers 4' and 5'.

Nowhere do Pasetti et al disclose or suggest individual monitoring of the tip and ring (source and sink) output currents, exclusive and irrespective of the output currents of the other amplifier and limiting those monitored currents in accordance with respective programmable tip and ring amplifier output current limits therefor, as claimed in claims 44-67.

In the absence of a citation of prior art which discloses or suggests the individual monitoring of the tip and ring output currents and the control limiting thereof, exclusive and irrespective of the output currents of the other of the tip and ring amplifiers, as recited in claims 44-67, it is respectfully submitted that the replacement claims obviate the rejection of the original claims as set forth in the outstanding Office Action and place the application in condition for allowance.

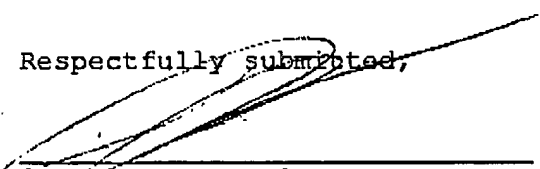
Early and favorable reconsideration of this application is, accordingly, earnestly solicited.

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Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-0484 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, this 1 day of May 2006.

L. Hove